

Amendments to the Claims**Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a termination for a wire rope having a first end and a second end, comprising the steps of
  - a. inserting the first end into a mold, wherein the mold comprises a mold opening;
  - b. placing a crucible with a crucible opening over the mold wherein the mold opening is in fluid communication with the crucible opening;
  - c. placing a separator in the crucible over the crucible opening;
  - d. adding an exothermic metallic material to the crucible;
  - e. placing a baffle on top of the crucible;
  - f. igniting the exothermic metallic material forming a molten material which liquefies the separator in the crucible; **and**
  - g. flowing the molten material into the mold around the first end forming a frustoconical termination capable of sustaining a higher break force than the wire rope;
  - h. providing a socket having a slotted opening parallel to the longitudinal axis of the wire rope, and having an open frustoconical portion;
    - i. providing a pair of connector holes in the socket generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the wire rope;
    - j. inserting the wire rope into the slotted opening from a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the wire rope;
    - k. abutting the frustoconical termination against the open frustoconical portion;**and**
  - l. connecting the connector holes to a mining excavation bucket.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wire rope is an excavation wire rope comprising a diameter between  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches and 7 inches.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wire rope is a single strand rope or a multi-strand rope.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~wire rope is adapted for use with mining equipment~~ frustoconical termination weighs between about 1500 pounds and about 2800 pounds.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the mold forms the frustoconical termination into a male ~~or a female~~ connection.
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the exothermic metallic material comprises a powdered metallic alloy.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the powdered metallic allow ~~comprises~~ is drawn from the group of an aluminum, an aluminum alloy, a copper, a copper alloy, and oxide[s] thereof ~~and combinations thereof~~
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of cleaning the first end of the wire rope forming a cleaned end prior to insertion in the mold.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of cleaning the wire rope is performed by one of the group of using a torch, using chemicals to remove dirt[,,] and using mechanical cleaning and combinations thereof.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the separator is a low carbon metal plate.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the separator is drawn from the group of steel[,,]and alloys of steeland combinations thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for making a termination for a wire rope having a first end and a second end, comprising the steps of

- a. inserting the first end into a mold, wherein the mold comprises a mold opening;
- b. pouring a liquid adhesive into the mold through the mold opening; and
- c. allowing the liquid adhesive to cure forming a frustoconical termination capable of sustaining a higher break force than the wire rope[.][;]
  - d. producing a socket having a slotted opening parallel to the longitudinal axis of the wire rope, an open frustoconical portion and a pair of connector holes generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the wire rope;
  - e. inserting the frustoconical termination into the slotted opening using a force applied to the wire rope perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the wire rope; and
  - f. connecting the connector holes to a mining excavation bucket.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] [14] wherein the wire rope is an excavation wire rope comprising a diameter between  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches and 7 inches.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the wire rope is a single strand rope or a

multi-strand rope.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~wire rope is adapted for use with mining equipment~~ termination weights between about 1500 pounds and about 2800 pounds.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the mold forms the frustroconical termination into a male ~~or female~~ connection.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the liquid adhesive is an epoxy.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of heating the liquid adhesive to room temperature prior to using the liquid adhesive.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of cleaning the first end of the wire rope forming a cleaned end prior to insertion in the mold.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of cleaning the wire rope is performed by one of the group of using a torch, using chemicals to remove dirt[,]] and using mechanical cleaning ~~and combinations thereof~~.